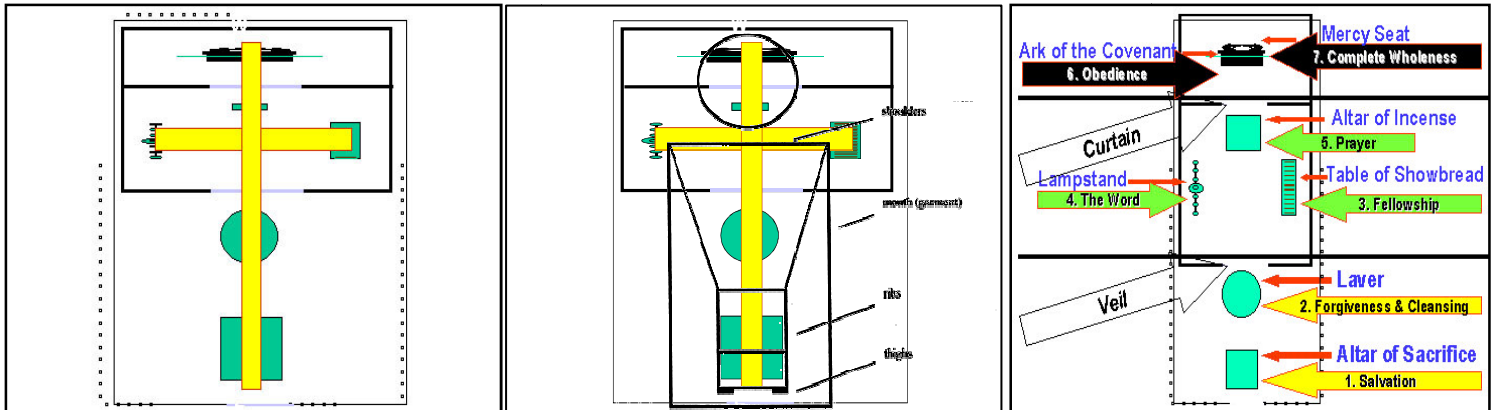


Exodus 27 - Thursday, April 2nd, 2009

- We are in a study of the Tabernacle, and Moses is on Mt. Sinai receiving the instructions from God as to how and why it's to be built.
- What's interesting is that there are 50 chapters in the Bible about the Tabernacle which makes it more than anything else in the Bible.

- Though we've looked at a lot of the nuts and bolts details, tonight it should start coming together as we look at the bigger picture.
- In order to do that, I want to introduce to you some diagrams and visuals with the hopes for a better understanding of the Tabernacle.



1 "You shall make an altar of acacia wood, five cubits long and five cubits wide -- the altar shall be square -- and its height shall be three cubits.

- God now gives Moses instructions for the construction of the bronze altar of sacrifice. It was to be 7 ½ feet square by 4 ½ feet high.
- This would make it the largest of the seven articles in the tabernacle. Also, it would be the first article that was seen when one entered.
- This first, and largest altar, would alter everything, because it was the place where the sacrifices were made and the blood was shed.

2 You shall make its horns on its four corners; its horns shall be of one piece with it. And you shall overlay it with bronze.

- It was to have bronze covered acacia wood horns on all four corners. Bronze can withstand intense heat, and pictures judgment.
- It's interesting to note that Koa wood is from the Acacia wood family. Acacia wood is very durable and was called incorruptible wood.
- There's something else that I would like to mention about this altar; notice that the bronze covering was to be smooth as "one piece."

- Something happens that causes the Lord to command the priests to hammer bronze incense-censers flat and cover this altar with them.
- What happened? Korah, Moses' cousin, rebels against Moses, and God splits the ground, swallows him and all his followers. (Num 16)
- The hammering of the bronze was to be a memorial to the children of Israel that only the priests should enter the tabernacle.

3 Also you shall make its pans to receive its ashes, and its shovels and its basins and its forks and its firepans; you shall make all its utensils of bronze. 4 You shall make a grate for it, a network of bronze; and on the network you shall make four bronze rings at its four corners. 5 You shall put it under the rim of the altar beneath, that the network may be midway up the altar. 6 And you shall make poles for the altar, poles of acacia wood, and overlay them with bronze. 7 The poles shall be put in the rings, and the poles shall be on the two sides of the altar to bear it. 8 You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make it.

- Here Moses is given the instructions for the various utensils that would be used for the offerings at this altar. They were to be set apart.
- In other words, they were to be specifically made for and used for only this altar, which was also to be portable and carried by poles.

9 "You shall also make the court of the tabernacle. For the south side there shall be hangings for the court made of fine woven linen, one hundred cubits long for one side. 10 And its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets shall be bronze. The hooks of the pillars and their bands shall be silver. 11 Likewise along the length of the north side there shall be hangings one hundred cubits long, with its twenty pillars and their twenty sockets of bronze, and the hooks of the pillars and their bands of silver. 12 "And along the width of the court on the west side shall be hangings of fifty cubits, with their ten pillars and their ten sockets. 13 The width of the court on the east side shall be fifty cubits. 14 The hangings on one side of the gate shall be fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets. 15 And on the other side shall be hangings of fifteen cubits, with their three pillars and their three sockets.

- Moses is given the instructions for the linen hangings which surrounded the Tabernacle. What's striking about this is how small it is.
- The entire Tabernacle was 150 feet by 75 feet. That's sort of small for a congregation of perhaps, two or three million Israelites.
- One commentator has suggested that this was God's way of saying that eventually only a few will enter in the narrow gate, as it were.

- Also, notice that these posts, which were 7 ½ feet high, and had bronze bases and silver hooks for hanging the linen on them.
- This would seemingly point to Jesus hanging/linen, on a cross because of judgment/bronze bases, for our redemption/silver hooks.

16 "For the gate of the court there shall be a screen twenty cubits long, woven of blue, purple, and scarlet thread, and fine woven linen, made by a weaver. It shall have four pillars and four sockets. 17 All the pillars around the court shall have bands of silver; their hooks shall be of silver and their sockets of bronze. 18 The length of the court shall be one hundred cubits, the width fifty throughout, and the height five cubits, made of fine woven linen, and its sockets of bronze. 19 All the utensils of the tabernacle for all its service, all its pegs, and all the pegs of the court, shall be of bronze.

- This gate of the court was to be the same as the gate to the tabernacle with the same four colors of blue, purple, scarlet and white.
- What's interesting about this is that all three entrances were the same. In other words, we can only enter into fellowship through Christ.
- The first entrance was into the outer court, the second entrance into the holy place, and the third entrance was into the most holy place.

- One thought is that this pictures us as believers in our relationship with the Lord, whether in the courtyard, holy place, or Holy of Holies.
- Some Christians are in Christ but never get past the courtyard. Some go further and serve the Lord when they enter the holy place.
- Yet others go even further in their relationship with the Lord when they enter into the presence of the Lord in the Most Holy Place.

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. NIV

20 "And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually. 21 In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the LORD. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.

- The Israelites were to bring pure oil of pressed olives so that the lamp would burn continually so the light never goes out.
- It's important to understand that the only way the light could stay lit was by the constant source of oil, which pictures the Holy Spirit.
- Notice that the olives were to be pressed, not beaten. It seems that our light shines the brightest when we're pressed the hardest.

2 Corinthians 4:8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; NIV

- Let's step back, and from another vantage point, look at how the Tabernacle is a picture pointing to the person of Jesus Christ.

THE TABERNACLE	THE CHRIST
The only door to enter	The only way to the Father, He said; "I am the door" (John 10:7)
The white linen barrier in the courtyard	The purity of Christ's righteousness (Revelation 19:13-14) We are clothed in Christ's righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:3-4)
The altar of sacrifice	The lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of all mankind He would alter the destiny of humanity (Ephesians 5:2, John 1:29)
The bronze sockets for posts	The judgment endured by Christ for us. Bronze being a fire enduring metal (Hebrews 12:2-3)
The Laver	The Word of God Jesus is the Word (John 1:1, Ephesians 5:26)
The tent, with only one way to the Holy of Holies	He is the way the truth and the life (John 14:6)
The lamp stand, which was the only source of light	The light. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" (John 8:12). He is our source
The table of showbread	The bread of life (John 6:35)
The golden altar of incense	The intercessor for us The incense speaks of prayer being fragrant (Hebrews 7:25, Revelation 8:3-4)
The Holy of Holies	He sheds His blood and fulfills the law for us because of His mercy to us. (Col. 1:19-20)